(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the concerned Ministries and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Computerised Post Offices

1472. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to computerise some post offices in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the current year it is proposed to install 900 Computer Based Counter Machine in 460 Post Offices in the Country.

State-wise detail of the 900 machines is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

State-wise List of Computer Based Counter Machines

Name of State	Number of Post Offices	Number of Computer based Counter Machines
1	2	3
1. Andhra Pradesh	28	65
2. Assam	16	50
3. Bihar	13	30
4. Delhi	28	55
5. Gujarat	27	55
6. Haryana	07	20
7. Himachal Pradesh	16	30
8. Jammu & Kashmir	05	10
9. Karnataka	52	60
10. Kerala	46	50
11. Madhya Pradesh	45	80
12. Maharashtra	41	75
13. N.E.	20	40
14. Orissa	26	50
15. Punjab	18	40
16. Rajasthan	16	45
17. Tamil Nadu	19	50
18. Uttar Pradesh	23	50
19. West Bengal	13	45
	460	900

Introduction of Trains

1473. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce any new train on Madras-Mangalore route; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Communication Facility at Cheaper Rates

1474. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps being taken by the Government for providing communication facility at cheaper rates for sending information regarding natural calamity, danger to life and property and other important information and for emergency conversation for remote places of rural and hilly areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) With effect from 1.1.96, the following tariff was introduced for rural subscribers for all types of conversation :

(i) Bi-monthly rentals reduced by Rs. 50/- for the exchange systems of 100 lines and above but below 1,000 lines.

(ii) 100 additional free calls allowed per bi-monthly billing period.

(iii) 20 paise per call reduced in call charges for 200 calls in excess of 250 free calls.

(iv) Registration fee reduced from Rs. 2000 to Rs. 1000 in respect of exchange systems below 10,000 lines.

(v) Group dialling scheme provided up to 30 Kms. in rural, hilly and tribal areas of the country subject to certain conditions.

(c) The above concessions have already come into force.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Survey for Warora-Umred Railway Line

1475. SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Field Survey Work of Warora-Umred via Chimur line in Maharashtra has been completed and the completion report submitted to the Railway Board on August 25, 1996;

(b) if so, the further steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by which above project is likely to be materialised?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The survey for this work which has been recently completed has revealed the cost of the 106 kms. long line as Rs. 97.3 crores, with diesel traction, with a negative Rate of Return and with electric traction as Rs. 184.78 crores, again with negative Rate of Return. In view of the unremunerative nature of the project and severe resource constraints, it has not been found possible to take up this project for the present.

[Translation]

Tehri Dam Project

1476. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Tehri Dam Project is under construction in the country;

(b) if so, the date on which the construction work started and the actual cost of construction of this project alongwith the target set for its production capacity;

(c) whether a number of changes have been made in the project upto March, 1997;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time schedule fixed for completion of this project alongwith its total cost of construction and production capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (e) The Tehri Dam Project was originally accorded investment clearance by the Planning Commission in June, 1972 for implementation by the Government of Uttar Pradesh with an installed generating capacity of 600 MW (4x150 MW) at an estimated cost of Rs. 197.92 crores. The construction work on the project commenced in 1978. The installed generating capacity of the Tehri Dam Project was subsequently revised to 1000 MW in 1983, to provide for its operation as a peaking power station to suit the system requirement, at a revised estimated cost of Rs. 1065.80 crores (1983 price level).

Keeping in view the requirements of power for the Northern Region, and the inadequacy of funds with the State Government, it was decided in November, 1986, to implement the project as a joint venture of Governmet of India and Government of Uttar Pradesh and for this purpose, the Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC) was set up in 1988. The scope of the project was also enlarged to implement a Hydro Complex (2400 MW) by including Koteshwar Dam and Power House (400 MW) and a Pump Storage Plant (1000 MW) as a Central Sector scheme.

The Tehri Hydroelectric Project Stage-I (1000 MW) was approved by the Government of India in March, 1994, for implementation by Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC) at an estimated cost of Rs. 2963.66 crores. The Associated Transmission System costing Rs. 371 crores would be implemented by the Power Grid Corporation of India. The Project is expected to be commissioned by 2001-2002 A.D.

An expenditure of Rs. 1403.56 crores (Provisional) has been incurred by THDC on the project upto June, 1997.

Setting up of Steel Plants in Uttar Pradesh

1477. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps are being taken by the Government for consideration of pending proposals regarding setting up of steel plants in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of steel plants likely to be set up in the State during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) No proposal regarding setting up steel plants in Uttar Pradesh from the State of Uttar Pradesh is pending for grant of an industrial licence with the Union Government.

(c) As per available information by IDBI, one steel plant under the name and style of M/s. Malvika Steel Ltd. is likely to be set up in the State during the Ninth Five Year Plan.